

The VHF Transmitter



Keystone VHF Club, Inc.

W3HZU

Founded 1955 - York, PA

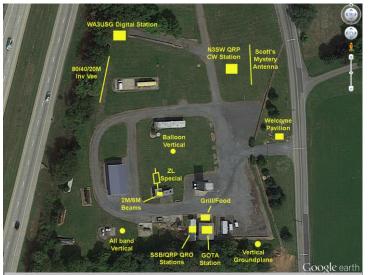
VOL 61 No 5 CIRCULATION 185 May/June 2016

Well Gang, it may not yet be Summer but the season is certainly upon us! I've measured three days so far where it's hit 90 degrees and we were not out of May yet!

Activity at the club drops off over the Summer. Families are on vacation and everyone seems to have a lot to do, myself included. I've even noticed a reduction in traffic on our 2 meter repeater. Another issue is that we don't have great air conditioning in the clubhouse and it gets kind of stuffy in there this time of the year.

Looking for some interesting "Ham Radio" orientated things to do over the next 3 months? Here are a few suggestions:

On Saturday, June 25th, stop up at the Field day site of the South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) in Carlisle and check out what's going on. This year, we are setting up five stations. A combination QRP & QRO SSB/CW station, A 100 watt SSB station, A QRP CW only station, A digital station (that's me), and a GOTA station. Antennas will be a 200 foot all band vertical supported by a helium filled balloon, a "ZL Special" directional antenna for 20 meters, A three band Inverted Vee, A 30 foot all band vertical, and a "Mystery antenna" to be constructed by Scott walker, N3SW. Scott's antenna will stress portability and will most likely be supported on each end by Black Widow verticals. You've also got to check out the "ZL Special!" This antenna is a high performing classic who's birth predates when most of you were born! Believe me, you have never seen anything quite like it!



This Field Day is located at the Carlisle Fire School facility on Army Heritage Drive. There's plenty of parking. Stop in any time after 2 PM on Saturday. Walk around and check out all of the stations. Marvel at our balloon vertical (hope for no wind)! At my digital station, I'll have a half dozen chairs where you can sit & chat. I'll be primarily operating PSK31. There's also a nice pavilion down by the grill where you can sit & yak with the guys from the SMRA. We will have a grill where you can throw on a burger or doggie & enjoy Macroni & Potato salad.

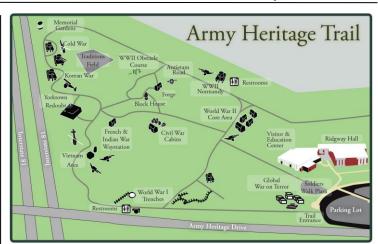
The Field day site is located <u>less than 1 minute</u> from the Carlisle Army Heritage Trail. This is a walking path with interactive displays from every area of conflict the United States has been involved in. You can walk through a World War 1 bunker, see various aircraft, tanks, artillery pieces (from Civil war to present).

Between the Field Day site and the Army Heritage Trail, it would make a great Saturday out for the whole family. Check out the link below:

 $\underline{http:/\!/www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/trail/aht.cfm}$

Both the Field day site and the Army heritage trail are located on Army Heritage Drive. The trail actually passes within 200 feet of the Field Day site.

I would also like to add that the SMRA is a great club. Like the KVHFC, it is growing with an influx of new Hams. I would really like to see us doing some activities together! It is a win-win situation!.



Dan Melato, KB3JSV would also like to see our 2 meter challenge gain some activity. We will be heading out to some remote (and hopefully high) locations this Summer to make contacts with club members.

Perhaps we could make this a bit more interesting. How about if we attempt a "200 Mile Challenge?" Can we find two high locations in Pennsylvania that are 200 miles apart and make contacts between them on 2 meters, 6 meters, or dare I ask On 440? How good do you think your radio is? Just how well performing do you think the tape measure beam you built is?

How about if we found these two sites, and better yet, made it possible to drive to them. Would you be willing to take your equipment and drive to one of them and attempt a 200 mile contact? Tape Measure beam to Tape Measure beam ... yes, I think that it could be done. Slim Jim to Slim Jim ... it would be interesting! Tape Measure beam to Rubber Ducky ... now this is getting fun! Rubber Ducky to Rubber Ducky ... come on, get real!

This isn't really high tech, it's just fun. Perhaps at one or both of the sites, some of us could camp. Others just stop up for the day. Get your Go-Kits and Antennas ready and stand by for adventure!

We need to get some interested folks who would like take part in this together under our pavilion along with some burgers and dogs (here we go again)_to discuss things! Maybe we can even talk about it a little at the meeting! Let's do this ... this year.

We have done so much this year on other projects. Tim, W3TWB has our portable repeater operating very reliably. We have used it for two public service events. The Ironmasters Challenge hike series in Pine Grove Furnace State Park and along the NCR rail trail for the York Marathon. Between Tim and Steve Cline, KC3CPL, both the repeater and its associated antenna system are a real asset to the club. Not many other organizations have this capability.

I think that we owe a round of thanks to both Eric, KB3CNH and Tony, KC3EED for the work that they put into getting out Echo Link node back up. We have been without this for over 3 years ... kudo's guys!

Finally, the ELMER Net. Thanks to EVERYONE who checks in. This net is just plain fun! We've had as many as 18 check in's. Lots of interesting questions from both new hams and old timers alike. I hope that we can keep this going!

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, June 2nd and July 7th at the Club Site located on Deininger Road

Schedule of Keystone VHF Club Sponsored VE Testing for 2016

Laurel VE Group Testing sponsored by the Keystone VHF Club are held the second Saturday of the odd months. All tests are at 10 AM, pre-registration is appreciated except at the Hamfest. Contact, Ralph Brandt at ralph.brandt@comcast.net or phone 717-792-1017.

Locations are York EMA Office at 120 Davies Road, York, or Keystone VHF Club on Deininger Road, York, near the Rocky Ridge Park

Testing dates: Jul 9 Sep 10 Nov 12

Keystone VHF Club sponsored testing by the Laurel V.E. Group. These sessions are held in the Training Room at the York County EOC, 120 Davies Rd., York, PA. Testing starts at 10:00 AM. Preregistration is appreciated. Contact Ralph Brandt at: Ralph.brandt@comcast.net or phone 717-792-1017 to register.

VE exams will be sponsored by Southern Pennsylvania Communications Group (SPCG). These sessions are held held at the Shrewsbury Borough Building, 35 Railroad Ave., Shrewsbury, PA. Testing starts at 9:30 AM. The point of contact for these sessions is Nate, WN3I at wn3i@comcast.net.

Jun 11 Aug 13 Oct 8 Dec 10

Local area nets:

Capitol Area Traffic Net starts **Monday at 8 PM** on the South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) repeater on 146.46 (67.0 tone), 1 MHz offset.

The Combined Club ARES/RACES Net meets **Monday at 8:30 PM** on the Keystone 146.97 Repeater (Tone: 123 Hz).

South Mountain Radio Amateurs (SMRA) Net on <u>Monday at 9 PM</u> on the 145.43 (Tone: 67 Hz) repeater located in Mt. Holly Springs. *After the normal FM net, a group moves off to 144.210 MHz operates SSB*

The Keystone VHF Club Digital Net on <u>Tuesday at 8 PM</u> on the York 146.97 Repeater (*Suspended over the Summer*)

The Keystone VJF Club ELMER Net on <u>Tuesday at 9 PM</u> on the York 146.97 Repeater right after the Digital net

A local FM Simplex Net runs Thursday at 8:30 PM on 146.55 MHz.

South Central PA 10 Meter $\,$ Net $\underline{\textbf{Friday at 8 PM}}\,\,$ 28.495 MHz USB

** Listed below are some local 10 meter nets **

Ham Shack Talk Net - Monday at 9 PM: 28.335 MHZ.

Delaware Lehigh Valley ARC Net - Sunday 4:00 PM: 28.430 MHZ

Do Drop In net - Sunday 8:30 PM: 28.450 MHZ Penn- Mar Club net - Friday. 8:30 PM: 28.495 MHZ.

10 Meter Ragchew Net - Every evening starting 7:30PM: 28.600 Mhz

Trustee's Report







Tim, W3TWB

Dick, WA3USG

Jeff, KB3RCT

The main effort over the Summer months is to keep the club grounds mowed. Let me share a secret Mowing the lawn with a walk behind lawn mower is fun and it's a great workout! We will allow any club member to take part in this for absolutely no extra charge in their dues! If you would like to become involved in this excellent exercise program, please contact one of the Trustees! (HI!)

Scheduled Club P.S. Events for 2016

- * June 5, 2016 5K/Walk Run (Rudy park)
 POC: (Brian, KC3CFW bklimes@klimesgroup.com)
- * June 18, 2016 Double Creek Half Marathon POC: Sandy, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net)
- * Date May 15, 2016 The York Marathon POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD jdelli@aol.com
- * Aug 13, 2016 Red Lion Street Fair POC: Jack Dellinger, KC3JD <u>jdelli@aol.com</u>
- * Aug 6-7, 2016 MS Bike Tour Gettysburg *** SJ POC: Sandy Goodman, N3ECF slgoodman1@verizon.net
- * Sept 3, 2016 Kings Gap Time Trials POC: (Micah Neff, KB3TGY tortmentor@aol.com
- * Sept 10, 2016 KTA Superhike *** SJ POC: Ken Wiggens, N2DYK n2dyk1940@yahoo.com
- * Sept 18, 2016 Three Creek Century Bike Tour *** SJ POC: Dick Goodman, WA3USG wa3usg@verizon.net
- * Oct 30, 2016 Michaux Team Challenge
 POC: Dan McGlothin kb3mun@mcglothin.us)

 *** SJ (Your Slim Jim will work here)
- * Dec 24-25, 2016 Glen Rock Carolers POC: Stan Walters, AB3EM abacuspc@comcast.net

JUNE PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

June 5 – 7:30 am at Rudy Park -- TIE DYE 5K run for American Heart We have the minimum operators needed. If anyone else would like to join us, just show up by 7:30 am.

June 18 - 6 am to 2 pm – DOUBLE CREEK HALF MARATHON & BIKE TOUR

This event is run by Wellspan. Start and Finish are at the North Salem Elementary School in Dover. We have operators for the rest stops on the 68 mile bike tour. We only have 4 volunteers for the 9 positions that are needed around Dover for the half-marathon. Posts to fill are Net Control, 2 shadows, 1 at the Med Tent, and 5 water stops. Please volunteer with Sandy, N3ECF.

We provide safety coverage on a variety of public service events. Please be considerate when you volunteer. We understand that emergencies happen, like a sudden illness or a family emergency. But once you volunteer, understand that we are expecting you to be at your assigned post. If you don't show up, that can cause problems in providing the radio coverage needed to ensure the safety of event participants. If you find you can't come to a planned event, please notify the radio organizer as soon as possible.

Sandy Goodman N3ECF, York County Auxiliary Communications Officer/Emergency Coordinator

The VHF Transmitter

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To change your Dick Goodman, WA3USG address for the 199 Maple Lane Mechanicsburg, Pa.



Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2016

By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF - Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at York County Emergency Management Center was called to order by Pres. Mike, N3VQH, at 19:00. There were 72 members present and 2 new member applicants and 1 family member.

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: Tim, W3TWB, did a slideshow highlighting all the activity that the club has been doing, including: work at the Dover remote site, linking of the Dover remote to the York repeater, test of the portable repeater at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, foxhunting. He also showed the beacon antenna that has been assembled and is owned by the microwave group. That will be mounted on our tower soon and will beacon the W3HZU call sign.

SECRETARY REPORT: Steve, WB3EFA, moved to accept the March minutes as published, seconded by Jack, K8YUC. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: March report: Income: \$989.94; Expenses: \$812.22 (of which \$567.22 was for electric); Balances: Club CD \$7.648.40; Checking Acct \$2.751.15;

Trustee Acct \$932.13; Total \$11,331.68. Bob, WB3EAF, moved to accept the report. Rich, KR3EE, seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was noted that the cost of the electric bill is rather high. The Trustees will look into that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Candy is now fully stocked. A spring work party is to be scheduled.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT -

Thank you to Rich, KR3EE, for driving up to Connecticut to get the retuned amplifier. That saved the cost of having it shipped. Tim, W3TWB, moved to pay Rich \$24 for his fuel, seconded by Jack, KC3JD. Motion carried.

The FT920 was sold to Dave Smith for \$700. Even though we approved spending \$750 for a new Kenwood 440 repeater, we made a deal with Kevin. We swapped some of our equipment that we were going to sell for a different 440 repeater from Kevin, to replace the one he had previously loaned us.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS -

Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant Drill will be on April 27, from about 5 to 9 PM.

Upcoming public service events: MS Walk, April 17; Iron Masters Hike, April 24; March of Dimes Walk, May 1; York Marathon, May 15. Jack, KC3JD, could use another 15 operators for York Marathon. Emails will be coming later this month for Tie Die 5K for Heart Association at Rudy Park on June 5 (need 12-15 operators), and for the Double Creek Marathon and Bike Tour for Wellspan on June 18 (need 15-20 operators).

VE/ED REPORT - At the March session, 4 upgrades passed. The one Technician failed his test. Testing will be held at the York Hamfest on April 9.

CONTEST REPORT - Coming up are the June VHF Contest, and Field Day. Hilltoppers club from Red Lion invites us to join them for the Field Day operations.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – The website is up to date. The newsletter got out

OLD BUSINESS:

Second readings were done for Dave Smith, KC3GMQ, and Dave Case, KC3EKR. Both were voted into membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

First reading was done for Bill Rosever, KC3GTX.

Tim, W3TWB, announced the back-up repeater is ready to go. The

The 250 watt amplifier does need repair. Ed, KB3WQI, moved to have the amplifier repaired and retuned for up to \$200. John, KB3SSS, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Feedline is needed for the 6-meter beam between the amplifier and the antenna. Jim, N3QZS, moved to purchase feedline, seconded by Rich, W3OKU. Motion carried.

Tim mentioned the need for four Raspberry PI kits. Bob, WB3EAF, moved to purchase 4 Raspberry PI kits for \$280. Brad, KO3T, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

We need to beef-up the link between the remote site and the main repeater. There are two alternatives: 1) buy an amplifier or a new 220 radio, or 2) replace the antenna. Either choice will cost about \$130. Rich, KR3EE, moved to approve \$150 to improve the 220 link. Dick, WA3USG, seconded. Motion carried.

A new SWR watt meter is needed. Jack, KC3JD, moved to approve \$160 to purchase an SWR watt meter. Motion was seconded Jeff, KB3RCT. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

Kip, WB3AFL, requested a fix on the port-a-pot. A latch will be added as part of the work party.

Hamfest flyers were distributed for April 9 Hamfest at Elicker's Grove Park in Spring Grove.

A fox-hunt will be held prior to the next club meeting. The fox will be hidden at 5 PM with the hunt to be held from 5 to 6 PM.

50-50 \$29 was won by Tim, KB3WZX.

Adjourned at 20:30.

Keystone VHF Club General Meeting Minutes of May 5th, 2016

By Sandy Goodman, N3ECF - Secretary

The General Club Meeting held at the Keystone VHC Club site was called to order by President Mike, N3VQH, at 1904. There were 36 members present and 1 guest (AB3VJ).

TECHNICAL HAPPENINGS: Eric (KB3CNH) spoke about the antenna analyzer that he built for a cost of about \$100.00. He purchased the kit from a company in Australia (so Craig, WA1HEW, wondered if that means that it is upside down.).

Mike (N3VQH) shared the saga of his noise problem on his HF radio. The source of the noise was a USB hub connected to his lap top so it remained powered even when the power to the whole house was cut.

SECRETARY REPORT: Sandy (N3ECF) sent the April minutes to the club membership via e-mail. There were no corrections or additions noted. Don (N3OSO) moved to accept the April minutes as published, Bob (WB3EAF) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT: April report: Income--\$1,883.75; Expenses--\$1,865.39. Balances: Club CD \$7,649.69; Checking Acct \$2,769.51; Trustee Acct \$858.70; Total 11,277.90. Motion to accept the report by Rich (KR3EE), seconded by Ed (KB3WQT), motion carried. Mike explained that Tim (W3TWB) and Dick (WA3USG) spent several hours on the phone with the power company to get their billing corrected. We will know when the next bill is received if the corrections were accurate

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TRUSTEE REPORT – Tim reporting – a work party is needed to complete the build and installation of the six meter beam and for general cleanup of the grounds. No specific date(s) established, but it may be a combination of a Saturday and Thursday evenings.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT - Tim (W3TWB) noted that the power output of the 2 meter repeater is unstable and that it would be prudent for us to have a second controller so that the backup repeater could be instantly available (plug and play) should the main repeater fail. Bob (WB3EAF) made a motion for the purchase of a new controller for a cost up to \$400.00. Rich (KR3EE) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tim will research and make the purchase.

EMCOMM/PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS – Jack (KC3JD) advised the membership to be on the look out for an e-mail from Sandy (N3ECF) outling the upcoming events—next big thing is the York Marathon on May 15. Jack is still looking for a few more operators for that event. The mobile repeater will be used for the marathon as will the "zone approach" that has been used for the event in the past.

VE/ED REPORT – Mike (N3VQH) reminded the membership that upcoming testing dates are in the newsletter.

CONTEST REPORT - Coming up are the June VHF Contest and Field Day at the end of June. The Red Lion club invited the Keystone members to join them at their club site for Field Day. Mike read several QSL cards recently received in the Keystone club mailbox.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – The website is up to date.

OLD BUSINESS:

2nd reading for KC3GTX, Bill Rosevear – voted in by members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1st reading for Ben Klimes (W3BLK)

Frans' (N3ZVK) "Mini-Dayton" - Frans highlighted some of the items that he brought to the meeting that he is looking to sell (for really reasonable prices).

Tim (W3TWB) reminded the group that the club is selling a Kenwood 930 for \$500.

GOOD OF THE CLUB -

Rich (KR3EE) gave kudos to Yaesu for their radio design that enabled him to repair his "oops" for only 56 cents in parts.

50-50 drawing: No 50/50 drawing was held. Instead, raffle tickets for the Beofeng HT were sold. Tickets will also be sold at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn @ 19:42 by Jack (KC3JD) and Seconded by Don (N3OSO)

FOR SALE 1KW HAM RADIO AMP + TUNER

AMERITRON AL-80B AMPLIFIER

(wired for 220V, easily changed to 120V)

AMERITRON ATR-20 TUNER

(companion to AL-80B)

HRO Amplifier page

http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-005147

HRO Tuner page

http://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-004625

Current NEW AMERITRON price is \$1595 + \$460 = \$2055

Current NEW HRO discounted price is \$1400 + \$420 = \$1820

I am selling as a set for \$1300 + (shipping if required). \$750 off list, \$500 off discounted price.

I purchased the set in January 2014 from HRO. I used the set gently in 2014. I used the set infrequently in 2015 & 2016 due to travel. The set is in great condition. I have replaced the set with a portable solid state amp w/ self-contained tuner. The AL-80B is NOT a portable amplifier.

Send me email at mlhnet@aol.com

if you have any interest in purchasing the AMP and TUNER.

If interested, please contact Mark Hanson, AA3RK at

mkcmsoftware@gmail.com



Keeping with the Times

By Ralph Brandt, K3HQI

I try to never miss an opportunity. This joke has gotten old. I don't mind it but I want to give some Hamstory (Ham history) for those who weren't here to live it or lived it and forgot. CW was and still is an important part of Ham Radio just as HF was and still is an important part of Ham Radio. I will not discourage anyone from using it. But let me balance the scales.

The ranks of Ham Radio were shrinking in 2000. With the elimination of the Code requirement (and some other factors) the ranks are growing. It is ironic that quite a few new hams are interested in CW but they do it backwards. They learn it after they get their license. If you look around the clubs anyone with a KB or KC 3 call came in after that change. Some of these are really hitting it.

Let's go back 60 years. In the late 1950's the ranks were shrinking. The pre-war hams were becoming silent keys, the influx of WW2 military Radio Operators had slowed. The FCC created a new license class, the Technician Class and they could have any part of the Ham spectrum above 50 Mhz. To license they took the General Theory (close to what Generals pass today) and 5 wpm code. The Novice License was about the same test as the Technician today, 5 wpm code, one year, not renewable and the call sign bore the badge of shame, an N in the call sign, KN3HQI for example. I am still amazed the Technician Class did not have a designator in the call sign.

KVHF is one club that was born out of the Tech License Class and older brother syndrome that relegated Techs to second class citizenship. I am not sure about the origin/history of SMRA. The reactionaries at the ARRL lobbied to revive CW even if it killed ham radio and about 1960 the dead portions of the 6 and 2 meter bands were created. I was active on 6 for 3 years after the 100 kc was partitioned off and all it did was prevent us from using crystals in that range. MOST 6 and 2 meter rigs were rock bound at that time and I had a couple of useless crystals because of that. I never heard one CW station there.

Why have I taken the time to mention this? Because I want us to remember. We do not want to repeat the mistakes of the past. If I try to push others too hard into doing what I like to do I will kill their enthusiasm and that will eventually be a negative for all of us. I for one must be careful with that.

That influx of techs were the people who helped introduce things like repeaters. For the most part they were Technicians in life as well as Technician Class. They wanted to experiment and didn't care what band. They upset HF guys because they considered a Texas contact on 6 meters DX

Most of us are about as adept to change as we are to doing brain surgery. Ham Radio has flourished with change. Let's ride the wave rather than try to stop it.

Ralph Brandt K3HQI

Do you belong to our Facebook page?

Want to know what's happening in the club, or to our club members on a real time, day to day basis? We have an extremely active Facebook page. There are probably at least a half dozen or more posts a day in reference to club activities or about something our members are doing. These include pictures and videos. Lots of Ham Radio related articles that our members post that are applicable to us. Chick on the link below and we will make you part of all this (you may have to paste this link into your browser:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/311697959703/

KEYSTONE WHF CLUB OF YORK, PA







Membership Application

Name:		_ Phone:	²		
Address:		_ Callsign:	Expires:	S	
City:	State:	Zip:	Lic Class:		
Occupation:		E-Mail:			
	Members	hip Desired			
Full Club Privileges \$25.00 annually & one time		Acces 4.8-500 1 1971	Are you a	Are you a member of:	
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Privileges same as Full membership \$6.25 annually & a one time \$5.00 Appl			ARES	Y-N	
Associate	Repeater Support	11	RACES	Y-N	
\$20.00 annually & a one time \$5.00 Application			fee OCWA	Y-N	
5	Special Areas of	Interest (circle	all that apply)		
DX FM HF	building ATV Contesting QRP Satellites SSB S res VHF Astronomy Ph	SSTV SWL Tow	er climbing LF	DSP	
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